

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Human Services Commission
Thursday, May 13, 2004
Kiva – City Hall

Present: Vice-chair Dave Bachmann, Commissioners John Bitenc, Alik Coudroglou, Donna Reid, and Seymour Resnick

Absent: Chairperson Diane Fausel and Commissioner Brigita Bilsens,

Staff Present: Debra Baird, Mark Bethel, Jan Cameron, Vicki French, Connie James, Cindy Ensign, Yola Ghammashi, Phil Hershkowitz, Rita Koppinger, Dawn Cagan, Michelle Marshall, and Valerie Kime-Trujillo

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Bachmann called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Resnick moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2004 as submitted. Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 2004 HUMAN SERVICES 5-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Cindy Ensign, Human Services Planner/Budget Specialist, recapped changes that were discussed at the previous meeting and have been implemented in the report.

Commissioner Bitenc asked for the verbiage on page 5 to be changed from “monitor” to “promote”. Ms. Ensign will make change as requested.

Vice-chair Bachmann thanked Ms. Ensign and said the report is clear, easy to understand and well done.

Commissioner Resnick moved to accept the 2004 Human Services 5 Year Plan Update as with the suggested verbiage change. Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE OF FEBRUARY 24, 2004 HOMELESS STREET COUNT

Connie James, Human Services Director, updated the Commission on the February 24, 2004 Homeless Street Count conducted in Scottsdale as well as the figures from neighboring cities. This count has been done for the past 3 years and is conducted on a specific day. HUD authorized an additional \$16 million for the county as a result of these counts. There is a street count and a shelter count. The results from the county were 1,818 individuals on the street and 13,000 or more in shelters. Scottsdale counted 29 and that is very low. Staff at Vista Del Camino sees about 20-21 individuals each month. The counts don't show many women but we are seeing more homeless women in Scottsdale. It is a choice of rent, shelter, or medication, and is a sign of the times relative to the society.

UPDATE ON HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS

Mark Holleran CEO of Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) provided an update on the Human Services Campus. Changes needed to occur in order to bring people back to downtown Phoenix. Approx 30 single room occupancy (SRO) facilities had been torn down with the new development and affordable housing units were lost and not replaced. This resulted in people showing up on the streets. CASS was created in 1984 and currently has 107 beds. The building CASS moved into was not designed for a shelter facility and there were infrastructure failures. Renovation was prohibitively expensive. At that same time partners were experiencing some of the same problems. Mr. Holleran showed a plan for the new facility. Seventeen million

dollars has been raised toward the \$24 million goal. They hope to commence construction in July with a 16-18 month build time making the opening during the first quarter of 2006. All the agencies agreed they would cooperate with each other. There is a commitment to the neighborhood to be a good neighbor. Each agency will bring their existing budget with them. This facility will be able to provide resource, information, and assistance.

Commissioner Coudroglou asked if Mr. Holleran knows of any efforts to address the housing issue. Mr. Holleran said affordable housing is the key. Steel Commons is an existing facility and 20% of the people moved in in 1997 and are still there. There is onsite case management. In July 24 units will be added at this site. They are always looking for opportunities to create additional housing. The facility is to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if Mr. Holleran sees the NOVA Safe Payment as becoming more of a pressing problem. Mr. Holleran said it is a problem and it always comes down to dollars. If the budget is compromised there will be consequences.

HOUSING REHABILITATION UPDATE

Michelle Marshall, Housing Rehabilitation and ADA Coordinator, presented an update on housing rehabilitation and emergency repair programs in Scottsdale. Ms. Marshall outlined the program purpose, provided a program overview, and explained the program goals and guidelines. Ms. Marshall outlined how the deferred loan program works.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if those that take advantage of the program stand to lose their homes. Ms. Marshall said that would be true as some are just above the income guidelines and unable to receive any other kind of assistance.

UPDATE ON THE YAQUI COMMUNITY

Yola Ghammashi, Human Services Specialist, updated the Commission on the services being provided to the Yaqui Community in Scottsdale. The community is mobilizing and organizing to do for itself. Accomplishments include the establishment of relations with the Tribal Council in Tucson where the need was presented for transportation and home rehabilitation. The Tribal Council looks at this community as a model. The tribe contributed \$5,000 as a grant for a second print of the Yaqui book. Students have attended leadership training. Support from the community regarding the addiction problem for members in the community has been tremendous. Culture classes are held. The needs and fears of the community have been identified and strategies will be developed. They recently organized a candidate platform for their Tribal elections and this is a crowning achievement.

Commission Reid asked if money was approved for education. Ms. Ghammashi outlined the assistance programs.

Commissioner Reid asked how do people learn more about the program. Ms. Ghammashi said information is distributed in the community newsletter.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if the Commission could attend the Lakota Rose ceremony. Ms. Ghammashi said the commission is invited.

VISTA DEL CAMINO EXPANSION AND REMODEL

Connie James, Human Services Director, updated the Commission on the history of Vista Del Camino from its inception. As the community has grown and the needs have grown, so has Vista. The City is at a critical juncture and staff is pleased to have a \$3 million capital improvement project at Vista. The plan is for a renovation of the building. After the architect is hired there will be community outreach as they should have input into what the needs are.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vicki French, Youth and Family Services Manager, provided an overview of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Scottsdale School District. This IGA allows the City to enter into an agreement with the School District for the funding of substance abuse education and prevention programs for all 33 Scottsdale schools.

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Commission Coudroglou seconded the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES (A.R.S. §38-431.02(K))

Connie James, Human Services Director, congratulated Commissioner Coudroglou on receiving the NASW Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. James reminded the Commission of the summer hiatus after the next meeting on Monday, May 24, 2004 at the Via Linda Senior Center. Rita Koppinger, Human Services Manager, updated the Commission on the activities of the Human Services department. The new "Helping Hands" TV Show features information about street drugs for youth, the new Police Department's Party Patrol Program, and the Youth and Family Services Diversion Program. At the Civic Center Senior Center, Class registration began May 13th and programs begin June 21st. The Community Assistance Office graduated 3 participants from the Self Sufficiency Program. There is a Job Skill Workshop on June 30th from 9am to noon at Vista Del Camino. The Partners for Paiute Breakfast was held April 23rd. At the Via Linda Senior Center, summer program registrations began on May 13th. The Depression Support Group meets on Fridays at 3. Vista Del Camino hosts a Divorce Workshop the 2nd Thursday of every month. Youth and Family Services host job skills workshops throughout the community.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. §38-431.02)

Vice-chair Bachmann called for any items from the floor. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Coudroglou moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Reid seconded and the motion carried unanimously. With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Vice-chair Bachmann adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James, Director
Human Services